

Fox Storytime – Nature Story Programs for Pre-school Students

Richard M. Nixon County Park Nature Center, 5922 Nixon Drive, York, PA 17403 – (717) 428-1961

Description:

A story-reader will read 1-2 nature-based seasonal animal stories to your students in our Treasury of Wildlife museum. The setting provides life-like dioramas of animals in their habitats which will relate to the stories. Students will also get to interact with the story by participating and getting hands-on sensory experiences. The Storytime is 30-45 minutes and appropriate for 4-5 year old groups of 10 or more students.

Goals:

Students will:

- Visit a natural history museum to explore, wonder, and learn.
- Listen and participate in a natural history themed story.
- Be exposed to seasonal natural history concepts.
- Have opportunities to explore outdoors with their guardian or parent.

Sample Schedule:

| Time | Activity |
|---------|---|
| 8:45am | Students arrive with chaperones, check-in with their teacher or group coordinator and gather outside the nature center. |
| 9:00am | Brief introduction to nature center rules with nature center volunteer. |
| 9:05am | Storytime with nature center volunteer. |
| 9:45am | Students explore nature center and/or work on short scavenger hunt with chaperones and teachers. |
| 10:15am | Teacher or chaperones take students on short outside walk to pond and sensory garden path. |
| 10:45am | Students and chaperones depart nature center at their own pace. |

Trip Planning for Teachers:

Take advantage of all the nature center has to offer by planning ahead!

- ☐ Bring your own copies of a short nature center scavenger hunt appropriate for your student's curriculum, abilities, and interests. Samples are available via email or on the park website.
- ☐ Walk around the park in advance of your program and plan out a short trail to take your students on a walk. Ask a park naturalist what is neat to look for and point out to your students during the time period of your program.
- ☐ Give expectations to your adult chaperones before the program.
 - Advise them to please turn their phones on silent.
 - Please leave the room if they need to talk with other parents during the story to avoid distracting our volunteer story readers.
 - Encourage them to sit with their child if their child is younger than 4 or not able to sit for the duration of the story.
 - Encourage parents to participate in the story program, walk, and scavenger hunt along with their child.
- ☐ The nature center gift shop will be open and available to parents and chaperones. A 10% discount is offered to teachers and park members. The gift shop accepts cash and check only at this time.

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